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PATENT APPLICATION

2181  
#9  
SP  
7-28-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: Examiner: R. Phan  
ATSUSHI DATE et al. )  
: Group Art Unit: 2181  
Application No.: 09/917,833 )  
: Filed: July 31, 2001 )  
: For: BUS MANAGEMENT BASED )  
ON BUS STATUS : July 16, 2003

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
REQUEST FOR RETURN OF PREVIOUSLY-SUBMITTED FORMS PTO-1449

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,253,347
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,583,999
- (3) JP 6-131290
- (4) JP 6-236347
- (5) JP 6-332848
- (6) JP 1-211155
- (7) JP 56-159726

Documents 1 and 2 were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of a European Search Report, dated May 15, 2003, is enclosed. The Examiner is directed to the European Search Report for an explanation of relevance of documents 1 and 2 to the present invention.

Also cited in the European Search Report was U.S. Patent No. 5,778,200, which is not cited herein because it was previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the subject application on July 31, 2001.

Documents 3 to 7 were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of a Japanese Office Action, dated April 25, 2003, is enclosed. English-language abstracts are also provided for documents 3 to 7. None of documents 3 to 7 are seen to disclose a technique for power management, which is the subject of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned English-language abstracts sufficiently provide an explanation of relevance of documents 3 to 7 to the present invention.

In view of the foregoing dates (April 25, 2003 and May 15, 2003), it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each of the above documents was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

In this regard, the Examiner is also requested to indicate that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed July 31, 2001 and November 6, 2001 has been considered, by initialing and returning the Forms PTO-1449 submitted therewith. Copies of each of these previously-submitted Forms PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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